

OFFICE OF THE
SOUTH CHURCH,
(Congregational).

ARTHUR DIETRICK, Minister,
Residence, 20 Chestnut St.

PEABODY, MASS., 4-11-07

P A S T O R ' S R E P O R T

The seventh report of the pastor to the Church Cabinet, season of 1906-7.

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To the members of South Church Cabinet,
Peabody Mass.

Dear Friends:- This report covers the period from Feb. 21st until today, the March meeting having been postponed on account of our special services. During this period the pastor's labor has been almost entirely in connection with those services and the training classes. Very little pastoral work has been done except a few calls upon the sick. On the otherhand the pastor's work has been largely increased. No less than 61 meetings of various sorts have been attended in an official capacity. 13 sermons and three special addresses have been prepared and delivered; including the elaborate Easter service in our own church; the temperance address in the Universalist church of Peabody on March 3d; a paper before the Salem Association of congregational misinters on March 26th; and an address to the Essex South Branch W.B.M. on April 8th. In addition to the dozen calls upon the sick, the pastor has written 99 personal letters; and sent out over two hundred circulars to our various members.

The especially important feature of the period covered by this report is the series of evangelistic meetings which began March 17th and is concluded on Friday evening of this week. At these meetings we have had excellent attendance, justifying removal from the vestry into the main auditorium; and I feel also that there has been a deep-

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ening of spiritual interest on the part of our members, and also an awakening of interest among our young people, several of whom have already expressed their desire to unite with the church. The present urgent necessity is for active personal work between this time and the May communion in order to reap the harvest.

Each Monday and Wednesday evening for a period of ten weeks has been set aside for the meetings of the training classes. Section A for young women meets on Monday and section B for young men on Wed. There are 14 enrolled in A and 10 in B. The average attendance in A is proportionally better than in B. In both classes there is sufficient interest so that members remain long after class is dismissed to talk further on the subjects under discussion. The various topics discussed are such as "Why do we believe in a God?", "What kind of a God do congregational christians believe in?", "What is it to repent?", "Why is the bible important to right living?" &c. No text book or catechism is employed in the conduct of these classes, but an effort is made (1) to ascertain by questioning the religious state of the members, and (2) to lead them naturally by a conversational method into earnest thinking along these lines, and (3) to personal faith in God thru Christ.

Later in the meeting you will be supplied with the names of those who in the pastor's judgment are likely to be enlisted. Will you visit such of them as you can arrange to meet and talk with them upon this most important of all topics? Let us cast reticence and reserve aside, and in these next few weeks speak our minds bravely to our young people and urge them to make a public profession of faith. Nothing can take the place of this personal work on your part. I commit it into your hands.

Very earnestly, your pastor

Will Arthur Dietrick

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